GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents For Week of December 13, 1926. Vol. V. No. 21.

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HARBOR OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Abdul-Hamid, Sultan of Turkey, looked upon this scene from his apartments in Yildiz Kiosk (see Bulletin No. 3).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Scheldt: Busiest River in Europe

WHEN THE Canadian Pacific wheat steamer *Melita* arrived in Antwerp, November 15, she was given an official welcome.

The *Melita's* crew had made no heroic rescue at sea. To all appearance she was just another wheat steamer. But to Antwerp she was the 10,000th vessel to come up the Scheldt River to the city this year. Antwerp now claims the honor of being the leading continental port, largely because of the British coal strike.

Antwerp's welcome to the *Melita* dramatically illustrates the importance of the Scheldt River to Belgium.

Belgian River With a Dutch Mouth

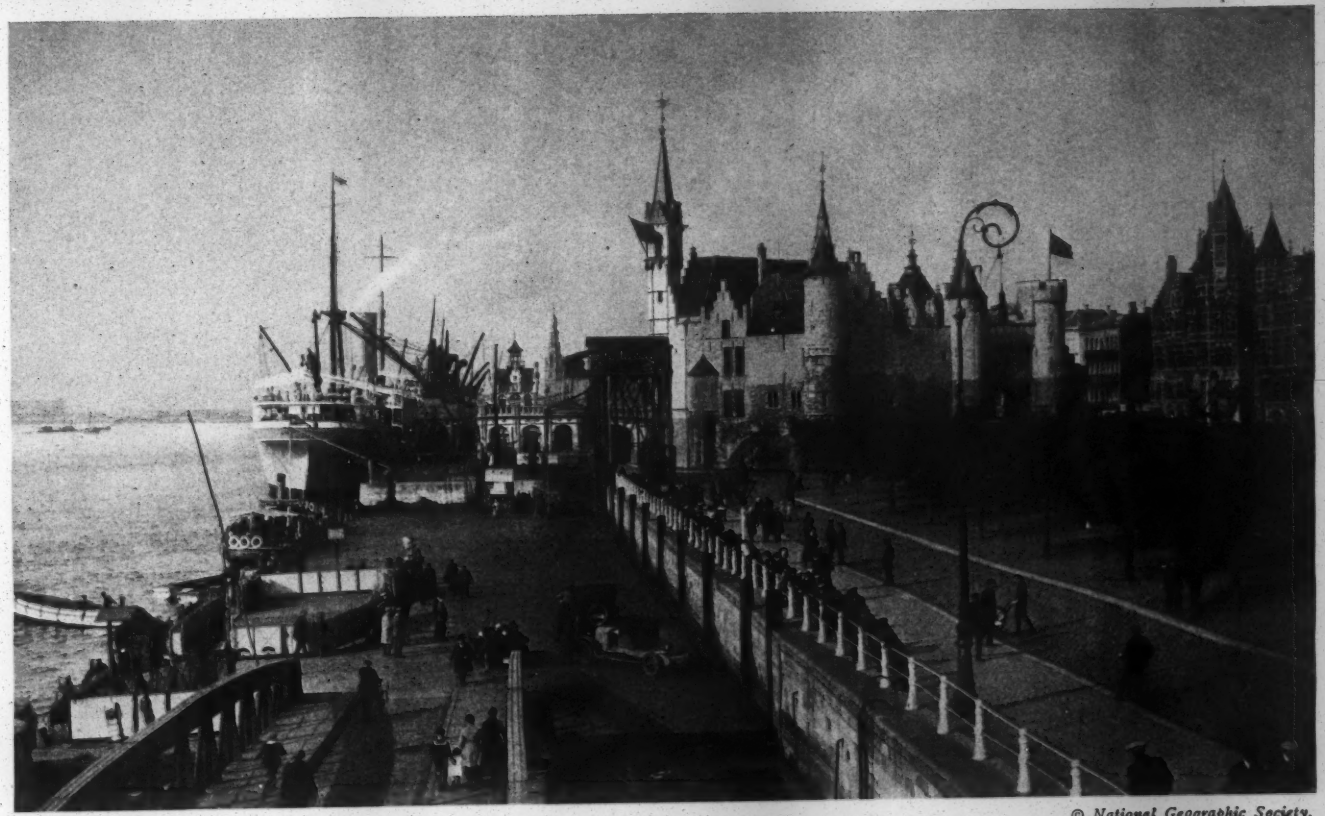
The Scheldt is the economic jugular vein of Belgium. On it, 50 miles from the sea, lies Antwerp, the Belgian metropolis, and one of the best equipped ports in the world. Up and down the stream flows traffic worth tens of millions of dollars; and almost every penny's worth of it goes to or from Antwerp. Yet the river is not under Belgian rule. It reaches the sea through Dutch territory, and so The Netherlands has ultimate control.

The Dutch acquired the right to close the Scheldt to commerce by the Treaty of Munster in 1648 and continued to exercise the right for more than two centuries. When the territory of the old kingdom of The Netherlands was divided in 1839 and Belgium was formed, The Netherlands held on to the territory on both banks of the Scheldt and had its right to control the river traffic reaffirmed. Tolls were levied against Antwerp shipping until 1863, when Auguste Lambermont, a Belgian statesman, raised a fund of more than $3,000,000 which was paid to The Netherlands to free the river of tolls. Lambermont induced a number of countries interested in the Antwerp trade to "chip in" toward this fund. In appreciation of his labors, Antwerp has erected a fine statue to his memory.

The portion of The Netherlands that lies on the south bank of the Scheldt and so gives the Dutch control of the mouth of the river, is Dutch Flanders, a strip of territory 40 miles long varying in width from 10 miles to less than one mile. Belgian territory does not begin until the head of the delta is reached and the estuary narrows down to a width of less than a mile. This is about 12 miles below Antwerp. Heretofore Belgium has had to pay part of the cost of lighting and buoying the entire estuary. Under the most recent treaty each country will be responsible for marking the river along its territory.

How War Gave Land Back to the Sea

The Dutch port of Flushing lies at the mouth of the Scheldt. From there through the 50 miles up to Antwerp the navigable channel takes a winding course among sand bars so that careful piloting is necessary. Buoys must be shifted frequently. At Antwerp the river is about 500 yards wide and has a depth at high water of 42 feet. The broad river there forms an admirable port. There are about four miles of quays along the river and good anchorage in midstream. Numerous basins and docks entered from the river by locks fur-



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A GLIMPSE OF THE PROMENOIRS, OR ELEVATED TERRACES OF ANTWERP, WITH THE STEEN IN THE BACKGROUND

The Steen was originally part of the Castle of Antwerp, dating from the 10th century, but of the present edifice there is little earlier than 1520. Charles V gave it to the citizens of Antwerp in 1549. Before that it had been a prison. Through it one enters the North Promenoir from the Quai Van Dyck (see Bulletin No. 1).

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The Real Names of the Nations

THESE are the names of well-known countries in the language of their inhabitants. How many can you identify?

Misr	Afrikiya	El Maghreb
Eesti Wabariik	Iran	Lietuva
Suomen Tasavalta	Die Republik Osterreich	Flstin

The English language version of the names of the nations listed above are:

Egypt	Tunisia	Morocco
Esthonia	Persia	Lithuania
Finland	Austria	Palestine

Misnaming nations is one of our established habits.

Since United States citizens do not call foreign nations by their native names, they take liberties with ours. When a representative of the National Geographic Society went to the Trentino District, Italy, a few months ago, he carried business cards which gave the Society's name in Italian and the address as "America." Neither "United States" nor "U. S. A." appeared on the card. In rural districts the peasants know of "America," but many of them have never heard of "the United States."

The world habit of misnaming nations can be excused. Some nations cannot agree on their own names, so the world must fix on some form. One of the discoveries of Americans touring Europe is that Switzerland is not Switzerland. If you are in north or German Switzerland it is Schweiz, south or Italian Switzerland it is Svizzera, west or French Switzerland, Suisse. The map shows Luxemburg on the international fence between Germany and France. It is also on the lingual fence, possessing two names, Grand-Duche de Luxembourg and Groszherzogtum Luxemburg. The Irish Free State also is known by the Gaelic, Soarstat Eireann.

Names Are Opinion of One Tribe of Another

Excepting New World titles, names of nations are usually the oldest relics of humanity. Like all antiques, their origins are often shrouded in mystery. Frequently names perpetuate the opinion one tribe had of another in the days of barbarism. The official name of Germany to-day is Deutsches Reich. Germans call themselves Deutsch, which is the name English-speaking people have allotted to the natives of Netherlands. The French call them Allemandes, literally foreigners. Slavs call the Germans "Niemiec," which means "dumb men." They were "dumb men" to the Slavs since they could not speak the Slav language. Slavs call themselves the Slowjane, "the intelligent people," but all Germans call them the Wends, that is, "the strangers."

England reveals name dissension nearer home. The Welsh call the English the Saeson; the Gaels of Scotland call the English Saoz; the Irish, Sasunaich; and the Manxmen, Sagsonach. A Welshman is not Welsh to a Welshman, but a Cymry.

Brazil is now officially Brasil. But before that "z" became an "s" many

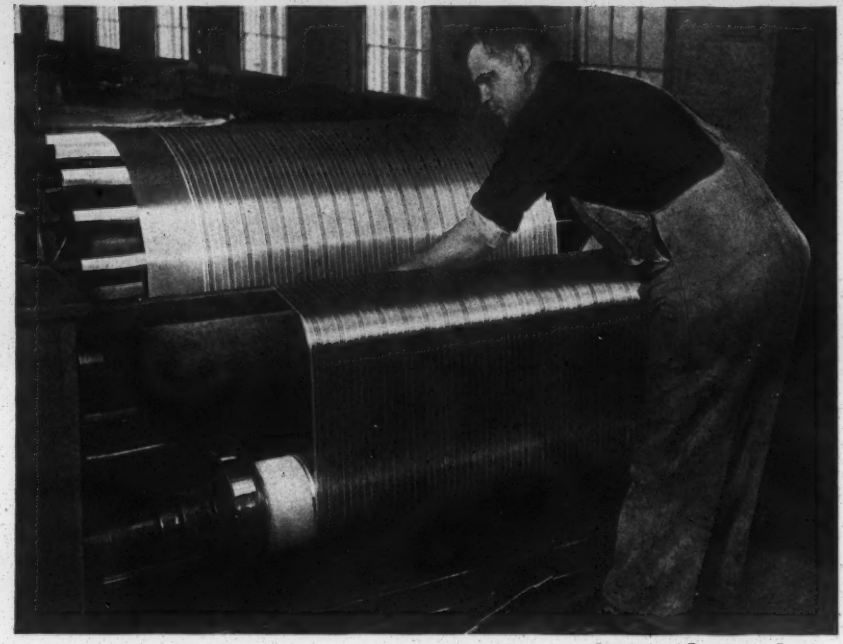
nish additional berths for ships and barges. Railways paralleling the quays and docks, batteries of power cranes, and spacious warehouses help to furnish the modern equipment for which Antwerp is famous.

As early as the 11th century the people of the country bordering the Scheldt began erecting embankments, so reclaiming scores of thousands of acres of rich lands. In 1585, during, the bitter siege of Antwerp, the dykes were broken and all the reclaimed lowlands were again flooded. Many of the old "polders" have been again freed from water since, but large areas which were surrendered to the Scheldt 340 years ago still remain submerged.

A Storm That Left Its Mark

A great storm reshaped the Scheldt in 1173. Prior to that time a dyke of sand hills stretched across the present mouth of the river between Dutch Flanders and the island of Walcheren, the river flowing to the sea through the Eastern Scheldt. The mighty waves driven by the storm washed away the sand-hills, and ever since the main flow of the river has been through the Western Scheldt, so formed.

Bulletin No. 1, December 13, 1926.



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BEAMING, OR PREPARING THE WARP FOR THE LOOM IN SILK WEAVING

Teachers attending the National Council of Geography Teachers at Philadelphia, December 27-29, have been invited to inspect the business concerns of that city (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Yildiz Palace, Abode of Sultan, May Be Casino

THE IMPERIAL PALACE of old Turkey, the birthplace of sultans, recently echoed with the tunes of American jazz music during a dance given by the governor of Constantinople.

This event compares with the recent proposal to convert the Yildiz Palace into a Monte Carlo. The Turkish Government, endeavoring to put its surplus imperial palaces to some profit, is said to have closed with Italian concessionaires, who will convert the former Ottoman White House into a casino.

Yildiz Kiosk is the full name of the palace, and it is a name which can serve as well in the near future as it has in the past—Yildiz Kiosk, the Pavilion of the Star. Lucky or unlucky? That is not a new question at Yildiz.

Incomparable View from Windows

For its old master, Sultan Abdul-Hamid II, the Star probably can be called a lucky one. Any Sultan who reigned thirty-three years was fortunate. True he was turned out in the end with little more ceremony than was accorded Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, when they were ejected from a far grander palace at Versailles. But thirty-three years is a fairly long lease on a view of which it has been said, "No other sovereign on the globe can contemplate from his chamber windows a scene which approaches this."

The view that Yildiz commands is the Bosporus and the Sea of Marmora. Within the sweep of the eye (or, in the case of the hermit Sultan, his telescope) lie palaces on both shores of the storied strait; the needle minarets of Constantinople's quarters, Stamboul, Pera, and Scutari; the Golden Horn, that important spit of land where twenty-seven sultans were born to terrify Europe for three hundred years; and finally the colorful parade of ships of the nations in and out of the Black Sea.

Bosphorus a Watery Main Street

To appreciate the setting of the Yildiz Palace, one must first fix in mind the geography of its position. The Bosporus is a Main Street. The Sea of Marmora is its open common or park beyond which "The Street" narrows again at the Dardanelles. Like the great avenues every American is familiar with, the Bosporus has its thickly populated downtown business districts, which in this case are the quarters of Constantinople. The open Black Sea takes the place of the open country toward which our Bosporus "avenue" leads, and, as the crush of the city is left behind, magnificent suburban residences and palaces command one's attention right and left.

On the left, soon after one leaves the city riding north, appears a magnificent palace stretching along the shore for a third of a mile. This is the Dolma Bagtche, the true Versailles Palace of the Turkish Empire. It cost $15,000,000. Sultan Abdul-Mejid tripped on a doorsill as he entered with the proud architects and builders to inspect the newly completed palace. That was enough for him. He left immediately and never set foot in the palace again. Dolma Bagtche was too grand for Abdul-Hamid's taste, so he built for himself Yildiz on the dominant hill a mile to the north. And close to it one sees the private, minaretted mosque he built of the same white marble.

paper and ink battles were fought in Brazil. For many years there was no fixed style. On a bank note it might be "z" and on a stamp it might be "s." Essays, articles and books were written on the subject by persons with leisure to investigate and conjecture. The name comes from one of the first products found in Brazil, one now ignored, a dye wood which produced a fine red. In Portuguese there is a word "brasa" meaning "live-coal." Since the description fitted the product and the product the country, Brazil it came to be. American practice still uses the "z."

Chinese Name for Japan

In the Japanese name for their island kingdom, Nippon, a geographic absurdity has been corrected by a modern geographic decision. "Ni" means sun and "pon," rising. Japan is the country of the rising sun. To whom could it be the country over which the sun rose? Not to Japanese certainly! Obviously it is a Chinese name, because the island lay where the Chinese saw the sun rise. But within the last century the International Date Line was marked down the center of the Pacific Ocean. It establishes where day begins according to earthly agreement. Therefore Japan is the first major territory in the northern hemisphere touched by the rising sun of each new day.

The confused welter of names would seem to require some agreement by all the nations. The use of French as the language of diplomacy would seem to offer a common denominator for nomenclature. But following the Versailles negotiations at the close of the World War there was a revolt against this practice. English-speaking nations wanted English and Spanish-speaking nations Spanish. As a matter of fact French is still largely the language of diplomacy—with exceptions. When the Brazilian Government addresses Italy it is in French, and the reply is in French. But when it addresses the United States, the note is in Portuguese and the reply in English.

"Americans" Appropriate "America"

Consider our nation's name "the United States of America." Americans proudly proclaim that that title does not stand for a nation which is an empire gathering vast territories to itself by conquest. Yet the present use of "the United States of America" is one of the most remarkable conquests on record in the world of nomenclature. An American is recognized everywhere now as a native of the United States, but there are 75,000,000 people in Canada, Central America, Mexico, and South America, who have just as much right to the name as the 125,000,000 citizens of the United States. We speak of "the United States" as if they could be only one federation by that title. There are two other "the United States," those of Venezuela and Brazil.

The United States has been empirical even in the pronunciation of the name America. The French call us "Amerique" and the Italians "America," with the "am" one syllable as in "ambulance." This is probably the style of the Florentine accountant, Amerigo Vespucci, who donated his Christian name to label two continents. But English-speaking Americans have changed all that. We use the "A" as a springboard and take a running dive into "merica."

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The Philippines; The Land of Fiber

WHILE publicists await the report of the Commission which has been making a survey of conditions in the Philippine Islands, the average citizen, and especially the American business man, pays increasing attention to the economic development of these possessions.

The world is developing an appetite for delicious tropical fruit and the Philippines are realizing that the Islands are eminently fitted to grow such fruit. The Filipinos look with envious eyes on the profits of Hawaiian pineapple and now claim they can raise even better pineapples. Mango, lanzon, chico and pomelo are strange names to the American housewife, but they may not long remain so if the Philippines are successful in canning and marketing their fruit products. Rattan, which the forests produce in abundance, remains yet to be exploited. American furniture makers may use rattan just as they are beginning to use Philippine fine wood for American chairs, tables and dressers and radio sets.

The Islands' Distinctive Product

If the custom of pigeonholing a nation or a district by its product, such as Illinois, the Corn Belt State; Sao Paulo, the Coffee Country; the South, the Land of Cotton, is accepted, then the Philippines should be known as the Land of Fiber. From a banana plant Filipinos obtain probably the strongest known plant fiber, Manila hemp; from the fibrous stalk of the cane they produce sugar; the long hairs on the husks of the billion and a half coconuts are now put to many uses; the fiber of the maguey, a member of the amaryllis family and close relative of the century plant, is an important export; Buntal hats are made from the buri palm; and then there is the wood and rattan from the forest. Finally there is the embroidery industry which depends on the imported fibers of silk, cotton and flax.

It is a quarter of a century since the first Philippine Commission finished its work in 1901.

How Trade Has Changed

Scratch off coffee, insert embroideries, then the list of the islands' five chief products for export to-day remains the same as in 1901. But the order of their importance and, most of all, the rolled up total of their importance to the Philippines, has changed. For years Manilla hemp was the leader. The most valuable export to-day is sugar and the next most valuable is the coconut. Then follows hemp. Tobacco is in fourth place just as it was during the latter years of Spanish control. Philippine embroidery is the new entry. Coffee in the Philippines succumbed to a tropical disease.

The year 1901 was the first normal year for the Philippines after they became United States territory. Aguinaldo's insurrection had been suppressed. The soldier made way for the civilian. That year Philippine trade, exports and imports, doubled the Spanish average for many years. To-day Philippine trade exceeds the quarter billion mark, which makes it more than four times as much as in the first peace year under the American flag.

Yildiz Kiosk is a two-story palace. It would pass for the fine country residence of a rich gentleman. There is very little that is Turkish about its architecture and a very great deal that is French. It is set in a park surrounded by staunch walls. Once a week in daylight and once a year at night time Abdul-Hamid drove through the gate of the wall and down the hill a short block to his private mosque. Beneath his tunic he wore a bullet-proof vest, for he was mortally afraid that some one of his subjects who crowded the line of march would take a shot at him. The annual night promenade to the mosque commemorated the date when Gabriel began to reveal the Koran to Mohammed. Torches lighted the scene. The curious and the devout in thousands came to see the spectacle. Night of Power, Turks called it, and the custom was that the Sultan each year on this night took a new wife.

Abdul-Hamid a Recluse in His Palace

Abdul-Hamid, who prohibited the use of dynamos in Constantinople because he confused them with dynamite, never went into this city. The city never peeped within his walls. That was forbidden. So it came to pass that Abdul-Hamid did not dare to look into the heart of Constantinople except with a telescope. Finally when the young Turks in 1909 resuscitated the Constitution the Sultan had suppressed, the populace crowded in to see what kind of a place the old man had shut himself up in. They found the gardens in bad shape for all the efforts of an army of gardeners reported to number 400. There was a small pottery factory and a completely equipped carpenter shop. The traditions of Mohammedans from the Sultan down require them to learn a trade.

Dr. Edwin Grosvenor, then professor in Robert College, a few miles north of Yildiz on the same bank of the Bosporus, describes the reception rooms of the palace as he saw them when the Sultan received Gen. Lew Wallace, author of "Ben Hur," as Minister from the United States: "The reception room is a large, high-studded apartment fronting on the Bosporus. The Ottoman ministers of state are drawn up in line on the right of the sovereign, one hand on the hilt of the sword and the other upon the breast in an attitude of profound humility. The envoy presents his credentials and states to his dragoman what he has to say. This the dragoman translates in Turkish to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who in turn repeats it in a low, hushed voice to the Sultan. An American is astounded to see in the reception room the name G. Washington on an elaborate picture which constitutes the main mural ornament of the stairway. The British artist whose work is thus distinguished was a kinsman of our national hero and first president."

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Teachers to Watch Geography Clinic Class

HOW WOULD you study Italy?

What ought a fifth grade child know about a Russian peasant?

Should a junior high school child be taught what we are buying from China?

What should be the minimum equipment of maps, magazines and supplementary readers for adequate geography teaching in junior high schools?

These and similar teacher problems will be discussed by nationally known educators at various sessions of the National Council of Geography Teachers. This council will meet at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, beginning Monday, December 27, and continue through Wednesday, December 29, 1926.

"Geography in the Curriculum" Theme of Meeting

"Geography in the Curriculum" will be the general theme at all meetings. The sessions have been especially arranged so that teachers of geography in elementary grades can work on their problems separately. Similar divisions of interests have been provided for with sections for teachers in junior and senior grades and sections for geography in teacher-training institutions. Mass meetings of all sections will hear the principal speakers.

"A Geography Clinic" is the most striking innovation of the scheduled program. Geography teachers will be ushered into darkened balconies to watch demonstration classes learn geography lessons in the lighted pit below. Classes of boys and girls from Pennsylvania schoolrooms will be brought to the auditorium. A trained geography teacher will conduct the class, using many of the most modern facilities for geography instruction.

Geography's Place in a Student's Vocabulary

Vital progress in the rapidly changing science of geography instruction will be presented by leaders in the profession. Dr. J. Russell Smith of Columbia University will address the geography teachers and supervisors on "Modern Concepts of Geography."

What should be in a course of study of geography will be outlined by Dr. Florence E. Bamberger, of Johns Hopkins University.

The number of words in a man's vocabulary is one recognized test of his education. What geographical words a person can be expected to have in his vocabulary will be discussed by Dr. A. Duncan Yocum in his address, "The Contribution of Geography to Vocabulary."

Miss Erna Grassmuck, Director of Geography for Pennsylvania, and president of the National Council, will discuss "Problems Demanding Immediate Attention."

To Study Best Supplementary Materials

The importance of geography to the business and professional man is well recognized. A new angle will come under discussion at one of the National Council round tables: Is modern geography instruction contributing to the enjoyment of leisure? The profession wishes to know how much geography affects general reading, music appreciation and similar pursuits. Speakers will discuss

A College Older than Harvard

If age were the only test, the Filipino could call the American school system mere mushroom growth. A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila can refer to Harvard as a young college because Santo Tomas opened its doors in 1607, the same year John Smith and his hundred colonists began their trials with mosquitoes and malaria at Jamestown, Virginia. The present Philippine school system, however, is almost entirely American made. Spanish law required that there be two teachers, one for instruction of boys and one for instruction of girls, to each 5,000 people. Actually it worked out to one teacher to more than 4,000 people.

To-day there are more than 25,000 teachers in Philippine public schools. These teachers, 98 per cent of whom are Filipinos, are training 1,132,000 pupils.

Although there are 87 dialects spoken in the Islands, English has become the national language in twenty-five years. There is not a town or remote village now where some children at least do not speak English. Spanish is spoken, but not nearly as much as English.

A program called for planting 30,000,000 Para rubber seedlings during the current year. A new profitable export has been discovered in buntal or Bangkok straw hats, which export has leaped in four years from $200,000 value to $2,000,000. Although tenth among the world's sugar producers, the Philippines are first in area of land available for cultivation. Before 1909 there was not a single modern sugar mill. Now there are thirty-one producing centrifugal sugar. Muscovado sugar, boiled out by the crude and wasteful methods of Vermont maple sugar making, is decreasing in proportion.

Bulletin No. 4, December 13, 1926.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name .....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City..... State.....

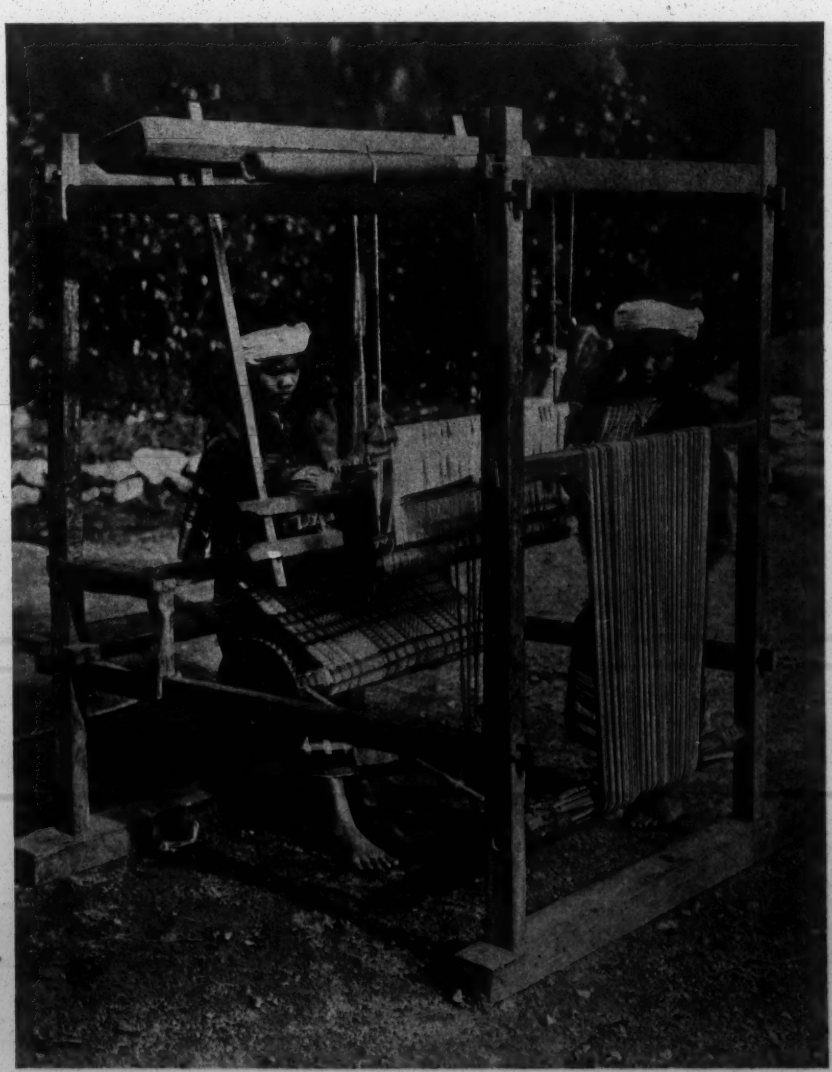
I am a teacher in.....school.....grade

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

how geography can help in the selection of a vacation spot or the route of an automobile tour.

What material a geography teacher can seek out and use will receive attention in a round table discussion, "The Challenge Accepted by the Geography Teacher." Here the problem of supplementing the textbook with pictures, magazines, sample objects, etc., will be developed.

Bulletin No. 5, December 13, 1926.



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IGOROT SCHOOL GIRLS WEAVING

After these girls become skillful weavers they are given the looms which they have learned to use and are sent back to their own towns to teach others how to make cloth. The fabrics they produce are invariably of the brightest colors, but they display excellent taste in the way they combine them to produce a rich and striking effect (see Bulletin No. 4).